



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

November – 2011 Volume 11, Issue 11

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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## The Power of Rural



*by Robert Moser, MD  
Secretary and State Health Officer  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

We're approaching a first-time observance for the State of Kansas and for me, this celebration is something that hits close to home. National Rural Health Day is Nov. 17 and I'm part of the nearly one in three Kansans who have invested time and energy into the small towns and farming communities we know and love.

I think most will agree that these rural regions are the essence of Kansas. The selfless, community-minded spirit you'll see in Kansas and other places in rural America helps provide commodities and services to our nation and others.

Within these rural communities you will also find unique health care challenges surrounding access and capacity.

Prior to my appointment this year as the Secretary for Health and Environment and the State Health Officer, I practiced family medicine in western Kansas for more than 20 years with Greeley County Health Services. I've seen a great deal of innovation from health care providers in rural Kansas and those efforts haven't slowed.

Rural communities have promising opportunities on the horizon to reshape the way health care services are delivered. Together, with other local, state and federal partners, rural Kansas can be a powerful force for assessing and addressing the health needs in all regions of the state. We're focused on expanding healthy behaviors; knitting together an improved, integrated health system; bringing quality doctors through the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program and planning better care management for the chronically ill.



Signing of the Proclamation for Rural Health Day by Governor Brownback

We have a shortage of health care providers in many areas of Kansas, which is coinciding with the increased demands of an aging population suffering from chronic conditions and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens. Rural hospitals and health care providers struggle daily as pressures on funding make it challenging to serve their residents.

We're hopeful, however, because rural health systems are innovative and the state of health care in Kansas is changing for the better. We're doing more to leverage our partnerships and craft programs to improve health outcomes.

On Nov. 17, Kansas will join other states in celebrating National Rural Health Day and the Power of Rural. While we recognize the unique health care challenges facing Kansas' 89 rural counties, we reflect on the prevailing innovation, resilience and commitment to excellence demonstrated year after year. For more information about rural health care in Kansas and National Rural Health Day, visit our website by clicking the National Rural Health Day – Kansas Celebrating the Power of Rural logo.



*Kansans Celebrating the Power of Rural*

We look forward to you joining the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on Nov. 17 as we highlight the best of rural health. Take a moment to thank your rural health care provider.

## Epidemiology Training for Local Health Departments

*by the Local Health Program, KDHE*

Essential public health service #2 charges health departments with the responsibility to "diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community." When the public health workforce is well-prepared, each Kansas community can rely on its local health department to fulfill this service and that, in turn, validates the importance of the role of the health department to ensure the health and safety of local residents.



As stated in KSA [65-119\(a\)](#), disease investigation and surveillance is one of the core roles for local public health.

*Any county or joint board of health or local health officer having knowledge of any infections or contagious disease, or of a death from such a disease, within their jurisdiction, shall immediately exercise and maintain a supervision over such case or cases during their continuance, seeing that all such cases are properly cared for and that they provisions of this act as to isolation, restrictions of communication, quarantine and disinfection are duly enforce. The county or joint board of health or local health officer shall*

*communicate without delay all information as to existing conditions to the secretary of health and environment.*

The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) Preparedness Team identified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Preparedness Capability #13, Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigations, as a critical gap for local health departments and included a work plan deliverable in this year's preparedness grant for training for local health department staff who assist with epidemiological investigations and disease surveillance.

In order to assist with meeting KSA 65-119 (a), Public Health Accreditation as well as the [PHEP grant deliverables](#) in the 2011-12 grant cycle, KALHD along with staff from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and a consultant from the University of Kansas are developing and delivering three modules of epidemiology training.

Enrollment for the epidemiology course modules and tracking course completion is being done via an [Epi Training Plan](#) on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. Once individual training needs are determined, local health department personnel may complete any or all of the five online basic courses from the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice that make up Module 1. Module 2 will be a live event, *Applied Epidemiology for Kansas*, which is scheduled for November 16, in Topeka, on the day immediately following the conclusion of the Kansas Association of Counties annual meeting. Portions of Module 2 will also be recorded and will be configured for later delivery via TRAIN. Module 3, *Applied Epidemiology for Real World Events*, will be a hands-on learning event conducted at the KALHD mid-year meeting the summer of 2012. Content, learning objectives and format for Module 3 are under development.

If you have questions or need technical assistance regarding the epidemiology modules, please contact Sara Spinks at the KALHD office, 785-271-8391. Kansas TRAIN questions can be directed to Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator, KDHE, at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov) or 785-291-3457.

### In the Spotlight – Russell County



*by Paula Florian,*

*Administrator, Russell County Health Department*

The Russell County Health Department (RCHD) is located in the middle of Russell County, Kansas and serves approximately 6,940 citizens. The mission of the RCHD is to promote wellness, prevent disease and protect the health of all citizens of Russell County and the surrounding areas and to empower all citizens to make responsible decisions through health education, using public health functions of assessment, assurance and policy development.

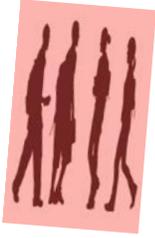
The staff at RCHD include professional nurses, Paula Florian, the administrator, and Lana Green. Paula has been with the health department for almost ten years. In addition to all the duties as the administrator, she provides program functions including duties as the breastfeeding educator. Lana has been with the RCHD for 33 years. Paula and Lana conduct the clinic services and educational programs. Crystal Dana, who has been with the RCHD for almost 20 years, is the clinic's clerk II and manages the billing and all financial matters. Crystal is also a Certified Safety Passenger Technician. Lisa Marvinec functions as their clerk I and greets clients as they present to the clinic. Lisa is also the Healthy Start Home Visitor and has been with the health department for almost 14 years. The daycare surveyor and the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant coordinator is Kayla Alexander, who began her duties in April 2011. The agency contracts with a dietitian, Lynn Kasper, RD, who administers the nutritional portion for the WIC program and counsels individuals who need personalized diet counseling. Carleen Gilmore is the nurse practitioner for the RCHD providing family planning services.

The [Russell County Health Department](#) administers the Maternal and Child Health, WIC and Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Programs. Clinical services include immunizations, family planning, HIV testing and counseling, KanBeHealthy physicals, STD testing and treatment, disease investigation, adult care services, home visits, as well as educational opportunities on various subjects throughout the county.

The health department has focused on improving connections with other county and local partners. This has been accomplished by conducting immunization clinics at the schools, including some schools that are not located within the county, planning and organizing mass dispensing exercises, educational programs at schools and for the community as well as collaborating with local partners on a variety of public health focused activities and committees. The Russell County Health Department staff invite you to visit their cross roads community and experience the community pride and friendliness of small-town living.

## Youth and Teen Health Summit

*by Tracy Branch, Regional Minority Health Consultant  
Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Service*



The Youth and Teen Health Summit is a two-day summit created for adolescents aged 9-12 years old (youth), 13-18 years old (teen) and parents/guardians. Adolescents and their parents will receive information on six targeted skill development and health topic areas. Summit will be held on Nov. 4-5 at the Richardson Elementary School, 3515 Park Avenue, Kansas City, MO.

Youth and teens who participate will commit to conducting three activities next year on peer education that were learned during the summits. Registered participants should expect to attend both days. Fri., Nov. 4, from 5-9 P.M. will focus on, "Self-Esteem, Decision Making & Leadership Development." This interactive session will engage participants in learning self-worth and self-esteem building and confidence development. Sat., Nov. 5, sessions will be from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. and will focus on:

- Obesity Prevention – This interactive session will inform participants on healthy eating, physical activity, portion control and adolescent body image.
- Substance Abuse & Tobacco Prevention – The session speakers will demonstrate the dangers and addictive properties of tobacco products, illegal substances and prescription drugs.
- Infection Disease Prevention – Participants will hear about risk factors for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.
- Accident Prevention – This session will describe the importance of wearing helmets while biking and skateboarding, seatbelts and internet safety.
- Suicide Prevention – Participants will be able to recognize the warning signs for suicide, cyber-bullying and how to seek help.

For more information contact Tracy Branch at 816-426-3295 or [tracy.branch@hhs.gov](mailto:tracy.branch@hhs.gov).

## A Healthy Baby Begins with You

*by Tracy Branch, Regional Minority Health Consultant  
Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Service*



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) is holding a full day educational opportunity for men ages 16 to adulthood. Attendees will learn about dad's positive role model for healthy families, health risks, healthy living and healthy fathering. Keynote address will be provided by Jason L. Perry, author of "*DissedRespect - Getting & Giving the Respect We All Need & Want.*"

This conference will be held on Nov. 12 from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Jack Reardon Convention Center, 500 Minnesota Ave. in Kansas City, KS.

Preregistration is required. For more information about this free event, contact Tracy Brach at 816-426-3295 or [Tracy.Branch@HHS.GOV](mailto:Tracy.Branch@HHS.GOV).

## Kansas Green Schools Garden Gate Workshop

*by KACEE*



Kansas Green Schools Garden Gate workshop will be held Nov. 18-19 at the Pratt USD 382 Central Office, 401 S Hamilton Street. Sponsored by the Kansas Association for Conversation and Environmental Education (KACEE) and is co-sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Grant Program and Annie's Grant for Gardens with education program sponsors Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Corporation Commission-State Energy Office and Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

- Be the first to experience the new [Kansas School Garden Curriculum & web resources](#), developed by Kansas teachers and gardeners!
- Option for one hour of graduate credit through Baker University for \$55
- Discover innovative ways to integrate school gardens, outdoor learning environments and environmental education into your curriculum with ease
- Take home four activity guides including hundreds of hands-on activities
- Become eligible to apply for a \$500 grant for your school garden
- Learn how your school can become a healthier place to work & learn, connect with your community, spice up your lesson plans and engage your students with school gardens!

- Workshop includes hands-on training and curriculum from [Project Learning Tree](#), [Project WET](#), [Project WILD & Growing Up WILD](#) and the [Pilot Kansas School Garden Curriculum](#)

This workshop is open to all educators working with children pre-kindergarten through grade 12, school staff, school garden partners and parents. Registration Fee is \$50 which includes lunch, materials and two full days of professional development. One hour of graduate credit is available for an additional fee of \$55.

Pre-registration is required by Nov. 10. To register online click the image above.

### The Perfect Storm: Disaster Ethics Symposium and Public Forum

*by Dan Leong, Director-Emergency Preparedness  
Kansas Hospital Association*



The Center for Practical Bioethics is hosting a symposium and forum on the ethics of disasters on Dec. 7th at the Kansas City Public Library-Plaza Branch. The symposium features presentations by medical professionals who were on the scene during the Hyatt Hotel disaster in Kansas City, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri in May 2011. The Symposium will begin

8 A.M. and end at 4 P.M. with the Public Forum beginning at 6 P.M. Anna Pou, MD, who spent nearly a week at Memorial Hospital in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005 will facilitate the symposium. Registration for the public forum is \$15. Continuing education credits are available for the symposium.

For more information contact Cindy Leyland at 816-979-1357 or [cleyland@practicalbioethics.org](mailto:cleyland@practicalbioethics.org). Click The Perfect Storm logo above for registration instructions.

### CPHP Training Web Site



The University of North Carolina (UNC) Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) Training Web Site is now integrated with [TRAIN](#) (TrainingFinder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network). Sponsored by the Public Health Foundation, TRAIN is a national learning management system comprised of the national [www.train.org](http://www.train.org) site and participating TRAIN affiliate sites managed by state public health agencies, academic partners and others. Users who come to the UNC CPHP Training Web Site

through any of the TRAIN sites can now access courses without having to re-register and track Training Web Site completions in their TRAIN learning records. As of Sept. 30, a total of 79 UNC CPHP courses are included in TRAIN. Additional courses will be added in the coming weeks.

### New Preparedness Program Director for KDHE

*by Jo Millett, Grant and Contract Specialist  
BCHS, KDHE*



The Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) is pleased to announce that Pam Tierce will be joining the bureau as the new Preparedness Program Director. Pam has served as Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)'s Computer Support Manager since 1997 and has a diverse background in management, customer service and information technology.

"I have known and worked with Pam for more than 20 years," said Mindee Reece, BCHS Director/Division of Health Administrator. "Her leadership, management and customer service skills will be a tremendous asset to the Preparedness Program and all individuals and organizations it serves and supports."

Pam has worked at KDHE for 32 years. When asked about the reason for her lengthy tenure, Pam replied, "I've always been blessed to be in positions where my responsibilities have included providing direct support to those needing assistance. I really enjoy helping people."

Pam is excited about her new role at KDHE and looks forward to meeting new people and working together with the Preparedness team to accomplish the goals of the Program.

Pam and her husband Pat have been married for 31 years and have a daughter and a son. They are the proud grandparents of triplets born in March 2009 to their daughter and son-in-law. When not spending time with the grandchildren, Pam enjoys walking and watching silly TV shows that make her laugh. She recently learned how to fly fish and is hoping to hone her skills in the near future. Pam began her new position on Oct. 31 and she can be reached at [ptierce@kdheks.gov](mailto:ptierce@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-8656.

## Clara Barton Hospital Pink Glove Dance



*by the Rural Health Program, KDHE*

The Pink Glove Dance has spread to the Clara Barton Hospital and Clinic. More than 120 staff members at Clara Barton are starring in their own Pink Glove Dance video to help spread the word about breast cancer awareness and prevention. The video also stars community members and breast cancer survivors. The video was submitted to a national competition to determine the best Pink Glove Dance video. The competition was sponsored by Medline Industries, Inc., manufacturer of the gloves and producer of the original Pink Glove Dance video. The top three winners received a donation in their name to the breast cancer charity of their choice. Clara Barton Hospital danced for the Susan G. Koman for the Cure Foundation. The winner was Lexington Hospital from West Columbia, South Carolina [www.pinkglovedance.com](http://www.pinkglovedance.com).

As part of the contest, [Clara Barton's video](#) was posted on along with the videos of the other participants to be viewed by the public. Clara Barton Hospital is the only hospital from Kansas to enter the national competition.

"Once we saw the original video, we immediately wanted to get involved to help make a difference at our facility, in our community and even around the country," said Jane Schepmann, Chief Nursing Officer. "Our workers were so excited and inspired to be part of our own Pink Glove Dance. It was not only a lot of fun to participate, but the awareness and discussion about breast cancer created from the video is the real satisfaction we are taking away from this experience."

The song used in Clara Barton video was Firework by Katy Perry. An interesting side note is that the artist gave permission to use this song specifically for the Pink Glove Dance competition.

The original Pink Glove Dance video premiered in Nov. 2009 and featured 200 Portland, Ore. hospital workers wearing pink gloves and dancing in support of breast cancer awareness and prevention. Today the video has more than 13 million views on YouTube® and has spawned hundreds of pink glove dance videos and breast cancer awareness events across the country. A sequel was produced last October featuring 4,000 health-care workers and breast cancer survivors throughout North America.

Medline is donating a portion of each sale of the pink gloves to the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF). To date, Medline has donated more than \$800,000 to the NBCF to fund mammograms for individuals who cannot afford them.

## Balderson Leadership Project Award Winner

*by Bureau of Community Health Systems*

Congratulations to Sara Roberts, Director, Rural Health, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE, for receiving the Balderson Leadership Project Award. Roberts and three of her former colleagues in Nebraska received this award for their Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute capstone project, "Improving Access to Oral Health Prevention in Rural Nebraska: Constructing a Resource Toolkit for Primary Care Providers." This award recognizes individuals and teams participating in public health leadership institutes nationwide. It was created in honor of Tom Balderson, who was instrumental in the creation of an extensive network of state, regional and national public health leadership institutes. Roberts and the others will present on their project/case study, its impact on the public health infrastructure and the leadership skills exhibited during their time within their respective leadership institutes via WebEx on Wed., Nov. 16.



## Core Public Health Program and Kansas Public Health Association

*by Kelly Kabler, Assistant Director, CPH and KPHLI  
University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

Session 4 of the Kansas Core Public Health (CPH) took place on Sept. 21-22nd in Wichita, in conjunction with the Kansas Public Health Association Annual Conference. Featured keynote presentations from accreditation experts:

- Kaye Bender form the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- Rex Archer from the Missouri Health Department
- Gina Frack form the Norton County Health Department

Paul D. Benne, MD, representing the Fort Riley Department of Public Health discussed an infant mortality study conducting on the base in Fort Riley. Breakout sessions included budgeting advice for public health workers, engaging the community in envi-



CPH students participate in one of Jeff King's experiential compotial learning activities.

ronmental health issues and utilizing the Community Park Audit Tool to advocate for healthier communities. CPH students had a private breakout session with team-building facilitator Jeff King of Next Element, LLC. Jeff walked the group through a process called the Full Value Contract that allowed the students to set the ground rules for their remaining sessions together. Jeff uses experiential learning activities to help his audience understand how we allow spoken and unspoken social norms dictate our interactions with others. He challenged the CPH students to take his facilitating power from him and "own" their time together.

Keynote presentations included, "State and National Tobacco Control" from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Smoking and Health and, "Advancing a Shared Vision for Health Policy in Kansas" from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Secretary Robert Moser. Breakouts included information about access to health coverage after health reform, tools for human resource management and connecting individual fitness with academic indicators.

During the awards portion of the KPHA conference, CPH Co-director Suzanne Hawley, PhD, was honored with the Samuel Crumbine Medal for her work in workforce and leadership development. This is the highest award given by the KPHA. It is presented for meritorious service and improvement of the health of Kansans.

## Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

**Q & A:** [Excerpt from the PHAB E-Newsletter:](#)

*Our health department is so stretched that we don't think we can ever be accredited. But, we don't want to be left out either. What advice do you have for us?*

You are not alone. Several health departments across the country feel that way. PHAB's advice is to start where you are; identify what you need to do by looking at the Readiness Checklists on PHAB's website. Then, identify partners that might be able to assist you with the activities, especially the development of the prerequisites. Call or email your national association to see what they have in the way of technical assistance. The key is to begin the work; it might take your health department a few years to get ready. But, that is fine. The biggest decision may be just to get started on the journey toward improving your health department's approach to doing its work. There are lots of resources available to assist you in that planning.

### The Importance of Creating a Culture of Quality Improvement

*by Linda Frazee, Workforce Development Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

This live webinar by Marni Mason, BSN, MBA, PMQI Consultant, will showcase the experience of a local health department in creating a culture of quality improvement (QI), including the application of the tools and resources. The webinar will be held on Dec. 9 at 10:30 A.M. from your computer. Information regarding, "how to access the webinar" will be sent prior to the event. Register on [KS-TRAIN](#) course #1020388.

At the completion of the 90 minute webinar, the participants will be able to:

1. Describe two strategies for building a culture of quality improvement
2. State the characteristics of effective Quality Councils
3. State three components of agency Quality Improvement Plans
4. Use tools for prioritizing improvement opportunities in their work

Mason manages a consulting practice specializing in assessment and improvement of public health practice, development of performance standards for public health, preparation for Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and for NCQA accreditation and operational and clinical improvement in general healthcare, public health and behavioral health organizations. She also has expertise in assessment and compliance with performance standards such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPSP) and the Baldrige Criteria for Performance. She served as consultant to the PHAB in the development of the national Standards for Public Health for voluntary accreditation and in training the PHAB Beta Test site reviewers. Ms. Mason has more than 20 years of experience in teaching the application of quality improvement methods and tools and helping clients integrate quality planning and improvement into organizational culture. Recently, Ms. Mason has been consulting with the Multistate Learning Collaborative, facilitating quality improvement (QI) teams and teaching QI methods and tools to public health leaders in numerous states, including workshops in Illinois, Kansas, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington and for national conferences for ASTHO, NACCHO, NIHB and NNPHI. She serves as consultant for the Washington State Quality Im-

provement Initiative (2006, 2007, 2008-2010) and the Illinois PHI Collaborative (2009-2010) to improve public health performance. Marni has co-authored articles regarding performance management in public health and contributed to the Public Health Quality Improvement Handbook and Embracing Quality in Local Public Health: Michigan's Quality Improvement Guidebook.

For more information or assistance contact Linda Frazee at 785-296-3641 or [lfrazee@kdheks.gov](mailto:lfrazee@kdheks.gov).

### New Accreditation Preparation Resources for Local Health Departments

*by NACCHO*



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is excited to announce new Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement resources that are available now or coming soon. More information can be found about these resources by clicking the NACCHO logo.

NACCHO's next webinar is scheduled for Mon., Nov. 14, at 2:30 P.M. "[The Nuts and Bolts of Preparing for PHAB Accreditation](#)," the 20th webinar in NACCHO's Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement (QI) Series, will feature representatives from three local health departments (LHDs) currently applying or preparing to apply for PHAB's newly launched accreditation program. They will provide insight into topics LHDs need to consider including how to engage staff, how to select an accreditation team, how to choose appropriate documentation and more. For more information about this webinar and to register, click [here](#). Participation is free, but spots are limited, so register soon.

This 90-minute program is the second in a two-part series. The first in the series, [What's New with Accreditation?](#), aired in July and featured Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) President and CEO, Kaye Bender sharing updates on PHAB's program. A recording of part one is available at [NACCHO's Accreditation & QI Webinars website](#).

### Communities "Big and Small"

*by Brenda Nickel, MS, RN, Director*

*Center for Performance Management, KDHE*



The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is a non-profit national organization providing resources for public health work. Included are resources that can assist organizations and communities in improving services, implementing public health practices, and sharing of knowledge through email subscriptions to bi-monthly newsletters.

The NNPHI provides the Public Health Performance Improvement (PHPI) Toolkit that consists of archived trainings, sample quality improvement (QI) products, templates and related resources developed by public health colleagues implementing performance management activities. Other resources are available through this peer network to assist in preparing for voluntary accreditation.

Within the PHPI Toolkit are the following topical areas:

- Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Planning (CHA/CHIP)
- Preparing for Accreditation
- Quality Improvement

To explore the contents of each tool kit or to contribute to this peer network click the NNPHI logo above.

**Funding Opportunities**  
Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Rural Health Grants

*by Sara Roberts, Director Rural Health*

*Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



In early October, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy sent out a funding announcement for the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program. The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [Rural Health](#), includes the State Office of Rural Health (SORH), Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) grants.

Through the SORH program, the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) will provide technical assistance and support to those interested in applying for the grant. This is a great potential funding opportunity for those local communities who are already engaged in some level of community health assessment activities with their community partners, especially those who have capacity and are ready to implement evidence-based interventions. Due date for the grant is Nov. 22.

If you know of rural communities that would be interested in this funding opportunity, contact Sara Roberts at 785-291-3796 or [sroberts@kdheks.gov](mailto:sroberts@kdheks.gov).

### Grants Awarded to 22 Youth Groups Across Kansas

*by Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition*



The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) awarded 22 youth empowered mini-grants for youth across Kansas to develop and implement "Youth Empowered" community wide programs or policy initiatives that focus on tobacco prevention. These grants, ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 will run through Dec. 2012.

As part of the Youth Project, TFKC is in the process of welcoming 22 new state board members to the TFKC Youth Empowered board. The Board seeks to engage youth community leaders in tobacco prevention activities and initiatives that assist youth in helping their peers to resist tobacco use.

Another round of Youth Empowered grants will be offered in November of 2011 with all applications being due in Jan. 2012.

Click the Tobacco Free Kansas logo above to view the list of fall 2011 mini-grant recipients and a map that locates each TFKC Youth grant across the state.

### Safe Routes to School Projects to Receive Funding

*By Rebecca Pepper,*

*Kansas Department of Transportation*



Twenty-one projects intended to encourage more children to walk or bicycle to school have been selected for funding through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The program, which was created in 2005, has several purposes:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk or bicycle to school;
- Make walking or biking to school safe and appealing;
- Facilitate projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

"Obesity rates among children have more than doubled in the past 20 years," said Deb Miller, Secretary of Transportation. "It's probably not just a coincidence that only 15 percent of all school trips are made by walking or bicycle."

The following cities and school district will receive Phase I funding, which covers the costs of developing an SRTS plan: Chanute, Hillsboro, Holcomb, Hugoton, Overbrook and Baxter Springs USD 508. Receiving Phase II funding for infrastructure improvements include the cities of Cheney, Emporia, Garden City, Girard, Hoisington, Lansing, Leavenworth, Lyons, Mulvane, Ottawa, Parsons, Wellington and the Unified Government of Kansas City, KS and Wyandotte County.

Two non-infrastructure projects were awarded to the Douglas County Community Health Improvement Partnership and Safe Kids Kansas, Inc. Non-infrastructure projects include creation of educational encouragement programs and Walking School Bus programs.

For more information contact Rebecca Pepper, 785-296-8593 or Stan Whitley 785-296-3585. Please check in the spring of 2012 the KDOT website for the next SRTS funding cycle.

## SAVE THE DATE

GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE  
CHALLENGE OF CHANGE:  
DEVELOPING AN EQUITABLE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM  
APRIL 24-25, 2012  
PUBLIC HEALTH - MCH ORIENTATION APRIL 23, 2012

# News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

## Local Health Department Administration Changes

County	Former Administrator	New Administrator/Director
Barber County	Heather Henke	Jerry McNamar
Ness County	Eva Peterson	Shelly Pavlu
Rawlins County	Pam Stuczynski	Karla Heble

## What's New

The Local Public Health Section from the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) has posted the revised Kansas Public Health Nursing and Administrative Resource Guidebook. Click the BCHS logo to review this helpful resource for all county health department administrators.



## BRFSS Maps

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides an interactive mapping application that graphically displays the prevalence of behavioral risk factors. The Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Area Risk Trends (SMART) project uses the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to analyze the data of selected metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (MMSAs) with 500 or more respondents. BRFSS data can be used to identify emerging health problems, establish and track health objectives and develop and evaluate public health policies and programs. To learn more click on the CDC logo above.



## National Release of the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators

The Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators will be released on Oct. 31, at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The leading health indicators have been developed to communicate high-priority health issues to the public and actions that can be taken to address them. Based on a Health Determinants and Health Outcomes by Life Stages framework, as well as input from public and Federal groups, the indicators will be used to assess the health of the US population over the decade, to facilitate collaboration among diverse groups and to motivate individuals and communities to take action to improve their health. To learn more click the APHA logo.



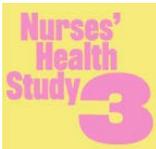
## Healthy People 2010 Review Shows Progress, Yet Disparities Persist

A review of the Healthy People 2010 report shows we've made significant progress in an array of health improvement initiatives, yet health disparities and child and adult obesity remain considerable challenges for public health professionals. The review took a look at over 700 health indicators between 2000 and 2010. It's seen as a roadmap for the country intended to galvanize state, local and federal health departments to seize new opportunities to improve health for all Americans. Click the Public Health Newswire logo for more information.

public health newswire

## Nurses' Health Study 3 Recruiting 100,000 Nurses

The Nurses' Health Study 3, the world's largest and longest-running study of women's health, is recruiting new participants to form a diverse cohort of female RNs or LPNs who are between the ages of 22 and 46 from across the US and Canada. Contribute to groundbreaking research on lifestyle, environment, nurses' work life and women's health by giving one hour of your time online a year.



## Unhealthy U.S. Workers' Absenteeism Costs \$153 Billion

Full-time workers in the U.S. who are overweight or obese and have other chronic health conditions miss an estimated 450 million additional days of work each year compared with healthy workers, resulting in an estimated cost of more than \$153 billion in lost productivity annually. To learn more about this report click the image above.



### The Power of Policy: A Cost-Effective Tool for Improving Population Health



The Power of Policy: A Cost-Effective Tool for Improving Population Health Webinar held on Oct. 5 had technical issues experienced in the event. A recording of the webinar, along with the presenter's slides are now available by clicking on the American Public Health association logo on the left.

### Public Health Then and Now: Celebrating 50 Years of MMWR at CDC



The first issue of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" (MMWR) was issued on Jan. 13, 1961. This week CDC released a supplement to the MMWR celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. A pdf of the supplement is available by clicking the logo on the left.

### 2012 Model Practices Submissions



The National Association of County and city Health Officers (NACCHO) are accepting local health department model practice applications Oct. 10-Nov. 11. This program showcases outstanding local public health practices through the Models Practices Database, the "NACCHO Exchange" publication and at the NACCHO Annual Meeting. For more information, click the logo above.

### CDC's 2011-2012 Influenza Season Key Points, Free Resources



The following document lists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s key points for the 2011-2012 flu season. Below are links for other resources from CDC and more information is also available on [Flu.gov](http://Flu.gov).

Downloadable print materials, audio/video and web tools click image on left

- Order free print materials; new materials to be added late Oct.:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/pubs/ncird.aspx#Flu>
- Flu Vaccination Pledge: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/pledge/>
- Link to add widget to your web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/pledge/widget.html>
- Information Portal for Health Professionals: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/>
- CDC's Flu Home Page: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

For more information or questions regarding CDC's national influenza vaccine communications, contact [fluinbox@cdc.gov](mailto:fluinbox@cdc.gov)

### Center for Biosecurity of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center



The Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) recently published the "Rad Resilient City: A Preparedness Checklist to Save Lives After a Nuclear detonation," which incorporates federal guidance and technical reports into seven steps that communities can take now to protect themselves from radioactive fallout. Click the UPMS logo to view this publication.

### FDA Clears First Single Use Face Mask for Children



The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Kimberly-Clark single use pediatric/child face mask for children aged five through twelve, to prevent the spread of airborne viruses and other pathogens. Click the FDA logo to read the complete press release.

### Study Suggests 1918 Flu Waves Were Caused by "Distinct" Viruses



The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) publishes a recent *Lancet* analysis conducted by researchers in the U.S. and Australia suggested that the first and second waves of the influenza pandemic of 1918 was caused by two distinct viruses. This contrasts with another recent study, based on lung autopsies, which concluded that illness among U.S. soldiers in the two waves were clinically and pathologically the same. To read more click on the CIDRAP logo.

## Center for Public Health Preparedness Training Website

*by University of North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness*



The University of North Carolina (UNC) Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) Training Web Site is now integrated with [TRAIN](#) (TrainingFinder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network). Sponsored by the Public Health Foundation, TRAIN is a national learning management system comprised of the national [www.train.org](http://www.train.org) site and participating TRAIN affiliate sites managed by state public health agencies, academic partners and others.

Users who come to the UNC CPHP Training Web Site through any of the TRAIN sites can now access courses without having to re-register and track training website completions in their TRAIN learning records. As of Sept. 30, a total of 79 UNC CPHP courses are included in TRAIN. Additional courses will be added in the coming weeks.

## Job Openings

### Pottawatomie County Health Department

The Pottawatomie County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is taking applications for the following position:

- [Physician](#)



### Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov)

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

[www.kdheks.gov/olrh/LHD\\_ConnectEditor.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/LHD_ConnectEditor.htm)

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Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)